

Daily Devotional. September 22, 2020 In God's Hands

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)

You are marked by God's handprints; from head to toe, God has identified you with Himself. His hands molded you and made you into who you are. His enormous hands have engraved everyone into His palm. He has shaped your soul. This is why you desperately need the gentle touch of God's hand. You need the hand of God to regularly reshape you into God's original design and purpose. The direction God sets us on never changes, but you do. You can lose the nature of our Savior and forget who you are: you my friend, are a child of the King, forgiven, guiltless, and grace-filled by God's standards.

You are free to forgive and are set loose to serve others. God has etched your name into His hand, never to be removed or stained. Actually, God's hand is your protection. The schemes of Satan must pass through the hand of your heavenly Father to get to you. It doesn't mean you are always shielded from Satan, but it does mean you still rest in the Lord's care, even in the middle of turmoil.

Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one" John 10:28-30, (NIV).

Therefore, permit your heavenly Father to carry you with His embracing arms of compassion. Nothing is *more* reassuring than the loving embrace of the Lord. God's hands will never crush you but comfort you in your time of struggle. The hand of the Lord is an extension of His unending love. Peace and safety are the remainders which stay with you after God has touched you. His hands control you so you can carry others.

Every day you meet people who are benefactors of your handprints. You can extend open hands of acceptance or closed fists of rejection. You can embrace others with open hands of understanding or distance yourself with closed hands of shallow assumption. You can offer a helping hand of service or expect or demand the hands of others to serve you. Just as the hands of your heavenly Father mark you, so you mark others.

Your spouse and children, and grand-children are wrapped in your handprints. They can be healthy handprints or handprints of emotional baggage and spiritual confusion. Hold them close, and help them feel your love and acceptance. Be vulnerable and truthful. Become wide open about your dreams and your fears. A close-fisted life is insecure, distrusting, and distant. An open-handed life is secure, trusting, and intimate. Manage others as your heavenly Father manages you because you are a product of God's grace. See the scars from the unjust nails in your Savior's hands. See your undeserving self in your Savior's hand. His hands are your salvation.

Prayer : Heavenly Father, by faith I rest in the love and protection of Your tender care.